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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b>  (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)	Application Number	10/001,489	
	Filing Date	10/23/01	
	First Named Inventor	Malik	
	Art Unit	1723	
	Examiner Name	Therkorn, Ernest G.	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	15	Attorney Docket Number	7414-6

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Signature	
Date	10/21/03

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: MALIK, A

Examiner: THERKORN, ERNEST G.

Serial No.: 10/001,489

Group Art Unit: 1723

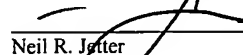
Filing Date: October 23, 2001

Title: SAMPLE PRECONCENTRATION TUBES WITH SOL-GEL  
SURFACE COATINGS AND/OR SOL-GEL MONOLITHIC BEDS

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REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated July 21, 2003, a Reply is presented as follows.

In the claims

1. (Previously amended) A method of preconcentrating trace analytes, comprising the steps of:  
providing a hollow capillary having at least one sol-gel extraction medium within said hollow capillary, said sol-gel extraction medium chemically bound to inner walls of said hollow capillary to form a sol-gel extraction medium-loaded capillary, and  
exposing said loaded capillary to a sample containing at least one target analyte, wherein said target analyte becomes disposed inside said loaded capillary.